



WORKING GROUP MEETING

Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: City of San Diego Construction Management & Field Services Office
9573 Chesapeake Dr. NW Scraper Conference Room (1st Floor)
San Diego, CA 92123

DATE OF MEETING: February 6, 2024 (1:30 PM to 3:00 PM)

ATTENDEES: See attached attendance roster

PRESENTATION: Refer to the presentation link under the 02/06/24 meeting

AGENDA:

- 1) Orientation / Sign-In / Meeting Overview
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Welcome Message – DPW Assistant Director, William Morgan, P.E.
- 4) Interactive Poll
- 5) Industry/Organization
 - a) Brandon Milar (CalAPA)
 - b) Mike McManus (AGC)
 - c) Marco Estrada (Recycling and Stabilizing Association of California)
 - d) Sarah Chavez (City of San Diego)(Greenbook Update)
- 6) Key Presentation: Geosynthetics use in Road Construction – Garrett Fountain, Tensar
- 7) Subcommittee Updates
- 8) Next Working Group Meeting / Close

1) ORIENTATION / SIGN-IN / MEETING OVERVIEW

Orland Mott, Mott Engineering Inc., Consultant for County of San Diego

- Orland started meeting and introduced himself and his role as the Building Better Roads (BBR) Facilitator
- Recounts the year 2023 and the issues of inflation, limited contractor availability with much work to be done, and the rainy season
- Referenced above issues by emphasizing need for building better roads and for further innovations to mix designs and methods
- Thanked City of San Diego for hosting meeting due to availability of meeting locations at County campus
- Reviewed virtual platform/Teams instructions, functions and etiquette for the virtual attendees, including submitting questions via the chat feature, or by raising a hand
- Covered attendance via sign-in sheet for in-person attendees and asked virtual attendees to enter name, organization, and e-mail address in the chat window

- Reviewed housekeeping, facility orientation/building logistics and emergency/safety protocols for in-person attendees

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Orland invited attendees to provide any comments, and moved onto the next item when no comments were brought up.

3) WELCOME

Orland introduced William (Bill) Morgan, County of San Diego, Assistant Director of Public Works

- Bill thanked everyone for attending today's meeting in person and virtually
- Showed appreciation to City of San Diego for hosting and for their collaboration with the County
- Emphasized importance of collaboration with other agencies to build better products
- Acknowledged issues of cost difficulties and contractor availability mentioned by Orland
- Reminded attendees of the importance of maintenance for safety reasons and helping our communities, especially during the rainy season

4) INTERACTIVE POLL

Orland Mott, Mott Engineering Inc., Consultant for County of San Diego

- Orland thanked Bill for the welcome message
- Explained interactive poll and its purpose of enhancing the 2024 meetings and beyond
- Explained the process of participating in the poll and getting access for in person and virtual attendees
- Informed that the poll results will be included with these meeting minutes
- Ended poll and goes through the results

5) INDUSTRY / ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Orland introduced Brandon Milar from CalAPA

- Brandon discussed emerging initiatives, such as recycled materials in asphalt and pavement seal mixes, specification changes, post plant gradation, and fog seals back in Caltrans specifications
- Discussed the concept of a balanced mix design and performance from a rutting and cracking perspective
- Informed that environmental product declarations may be added to specifications in the coming years
- Reminded attendees of availability of 2023 Caltrans, City and County Pavement Improvement Center (CCPIC), and Greenbook specifications
- Informed of several trainings available on CalAPA.net

Orland introduced Mike McManus from AGC

- Mike provided an overall National Industry Outlook based on survey of contractors
- Shared contractor thoughts on the value of specific construction projects between 2023 and 2024, and that the value should go up overall
- Explained that a much smaller amount of construction projects is being funded by IIJA bill than expected
- Shared some concerns for the Year 2024, such as contractors hiring more but less qualified workers, and with health and safety in the industry
- Informed of an increase in adoption of technology for efficiency purposes
- Provided information regarding jobs and unemployment in San Diego, and that the construction workforce is the highest it has been in 15 years
- Provided some things to expect in 2024, such as delays to projects and materials, and rising costs of materials and labor
- Orland explained that these trends have been seen throughout the County and with other agencies and that they will continue for the short term

Orland introduced Marco Estrada from the Recycling and Stabilizing Association of California

- Marco informed the attendees of several updates to the Greenbook and Caltrans specifications regarding resurfacing treatments
- Stated that specifications for the Cement Stabilized Pulverized Base (CSPB) treatment and Full Depth Recycling are recommended for updates and that working groups are working on them
- Discussed the Cold In-Place Recycling (CIR) and Cold Central Plant Recycling (CCPR) treatments that will be added to the 2024 Greenbook, and the Partial Depth Recycling (PDR) treatment that will be included in the Caltrans 2024 specifications
- Informed the attendees that two pilot projects are currently underway for the CCPR treatment
- Provided an RSA update that 100 Caltrans PDR projects have been completed
- Orland provided his input and on cost benefits of these treatments based on pavement management softwares

Orland introduced Sarah Chavez from the City of San Diego

- Sarah and Bill provide overall update on the Greenbook specifications
- Informed the attendees that the 2024 version of the Greenbook is to be printed this month (February)
- Mentioned that draft means and methods language for fiber being added and should be finalized by September
- Informed the attendees that the next meeting will be Thursday, 2/15
- Bill emphasized need for more members on subcommittees and to reach out if interested
- Sarah shared main update of the specifications, which implements AB 2953 to Section 203.6.1 regarding JMF and raises RAP to 25%

6) KEY PRESENTATION: GEOSYNTHETICS USED IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Garrett Fountain, Tensar

- Garrett began by discussing several pavement design methods, such as Gravel Equivalency, FAARField, AASHTO 93, AASHTOWareME, and CalME
- Distinguished that empirical methods are based on experience while the mechanistic methods test and evaluate for performance
- Explained several goals and challenges of pavement design and how geosynthetics can help
- Listed the functions of geosynthetics, such as stabilization, reinforcement, separation, filtration, drainage, and containment
- Listed advantages of geosynthetics, such as easiness to install, cost savings, sustainability, and availability of design methods
- Discussed several types of geotextiles, including woven, unwoven, and geogrids
- Explained that thinner layers of aggregate base and asphalt can be installed if using geosynthetics, which contributes to carbon reduction and potential increase in funding of projects
- Explained that geosynthetics can be installed on milled surfaces as long as the grooves are not significant
- Emphasized that paving mats or geosynthetics should be used rather than paving fabrics for easier milling in the future
- Listed several projects that have used geogrids, which add up to 1,000 miles of road in the last 10 years
- Opened for Q & A

Questions:

- Can AC be placed in digout shown on Slide 38 of the presentation? The answer was that it depends where in the country you are.
- Can they be used on a surface after Full Depth Reclamation is performed? The answer was yes.
- Can Fiber Reinforced AC be used in conjunction with geosynthetics? The answer was yes.
- Garrett mentioned that geosynthetics were used on a local SR-163 and Friars Rd interchange project. A question was asked about the performance so far since project completion. The answer was that it is too early to tell.
- Can it be used when digging and backfilling trenches? Geogrid can be trenched through easily, and it is recommended to install it up the trench walls slightly.

7) SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Orland Mott, Mott Engineering Inc., Consultant for County of San Diego

- Orland began the updates by explaining that progress on topics slowed slightly with holidays and vacations.

- Shared that the AB 2953 guidance has been reviewed and has received 100% feedback from reviewers
- Shared that test results are pending on trial for the High RAP HMA, and that it will potentially end up being used for base repairs
- Explained that the Waste Plastic guidance document is nearly complete and that a draft pilot study proposal will be created soon
- Explained that the Regional Mix Design topic is making great progress and meetings will be held to discuss specific mixes soon
- Ended the updates by mentioning that the Nondestructive Testing topic has not made much progress

8) NEXT WORKING GROUP MEETING / CLOSE

Orland Mott, Mott Engineering Inc., Consultant for County of San Diego

- Orland opened it up for questions and open discussion since there was time remaining.
 - A question was asked about the Greenbook JMF process. The answer is that no form has been created yet, and that Caltrans Section 39 shall be followed, but with minor revisions.
 - Orland mentioned that the next working group meeting will be held in June.
 - Closes meeting by inviting attendees to reach out if anybody has presentations they would like to give at future meetings
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- **<Meeting Adjourned>**